

My PSAP and our public safety responders have paid close attention to lessons learned coming out of Katrina. Many of them are operation/procedural changes. We had been unsuccessful in getting our responders to operate our radio system in a Fail Soft mode so they would have practice should a major event shut down our trunking capability. After Katrina we brought this issue up and they all agreed to run in this mode once a quarter so their field personnel would understand how to operate in this mode.

Several of the recommendations made by the committee are recognized at the local level, but they are expensive and funding has not been available. Homeland Security grants have been a wonderful asset for us and maybe it is time to get away from broad funding categories, "Interoperable Communications" and focus funding on specific areas covered in the committee's recommendations.